

H1N1 Survey Results

Business community input compiled by AWB



Washington State's Chamber of Commerce

Overview

- Role of the Association of Washington Business (AWB)
- Online survey conducted Aug. 31 - Sept. 3
- Distributed to AWB members (6,700+) statewide
- Secondary distribution to local chambers of commerce
- Total surveys completed: 351

Overview

- Most respondents (70%) reported adequate personnel pay, sick leave and flex-time policies to cover employee absence due to H1N1 – at least in first few weeks
- 58% reported they do NOT have backup suppliers ready to assist
- Some believe flu threat is over-hyped, possibly a government conspiracy

Q1: H1N1 Information

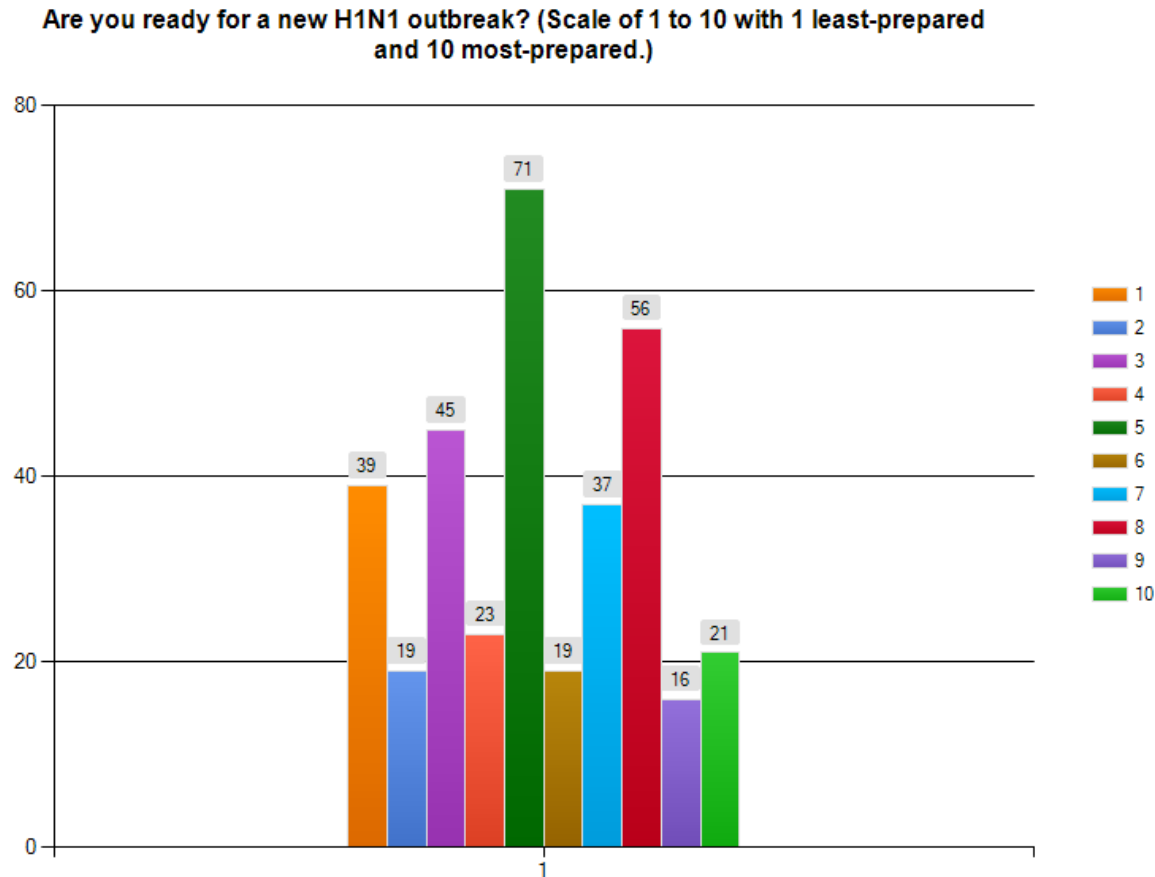
Respondents were asked what information they needed/wanted on the H1N1 virus:

- How soon is vaccine available? Where to get it?
- Dangers and side effects of the vaccine
- How is it different from a “normal flu bug”?
- The truth, without the panic
- Is it true that multiple vaccinations are needed?
- Best practices for dealing with an outbreak in a business setting

Q2: What Resources Are Needed?

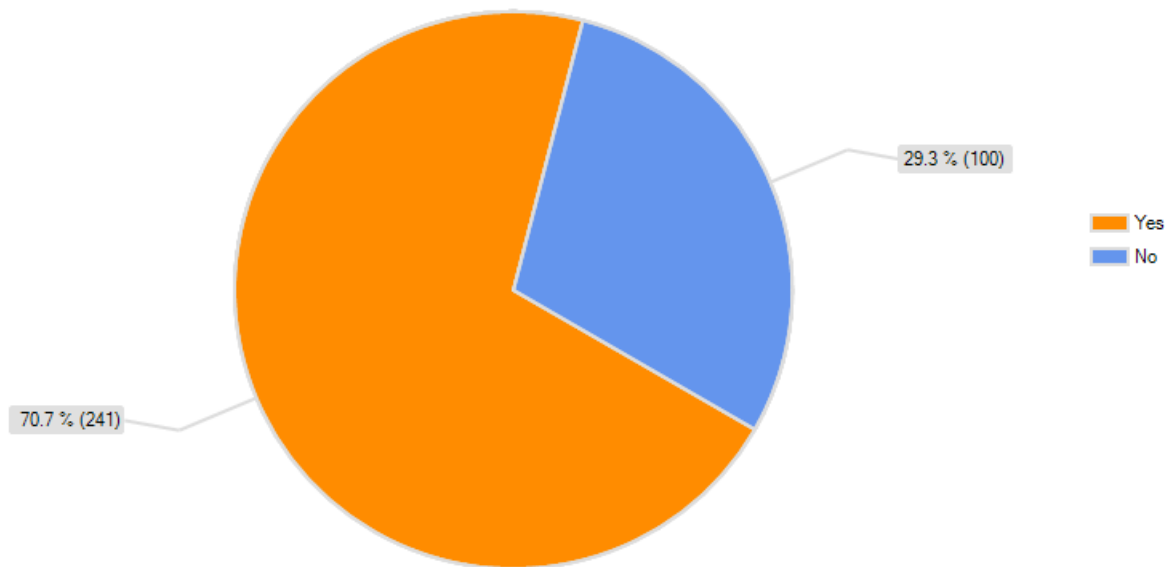
- Guidelines for public notification, return to work process, etc.
- How to handle employees who contract it
- Anything you have!
- Just the shot!
- Nothing ... we can get masks
- We have developed as thorough of plan as we can think of; next steps are to see how our plan plays out and adjust, adjust and adjust.

Q3: Many Unsure How Prepared They Are



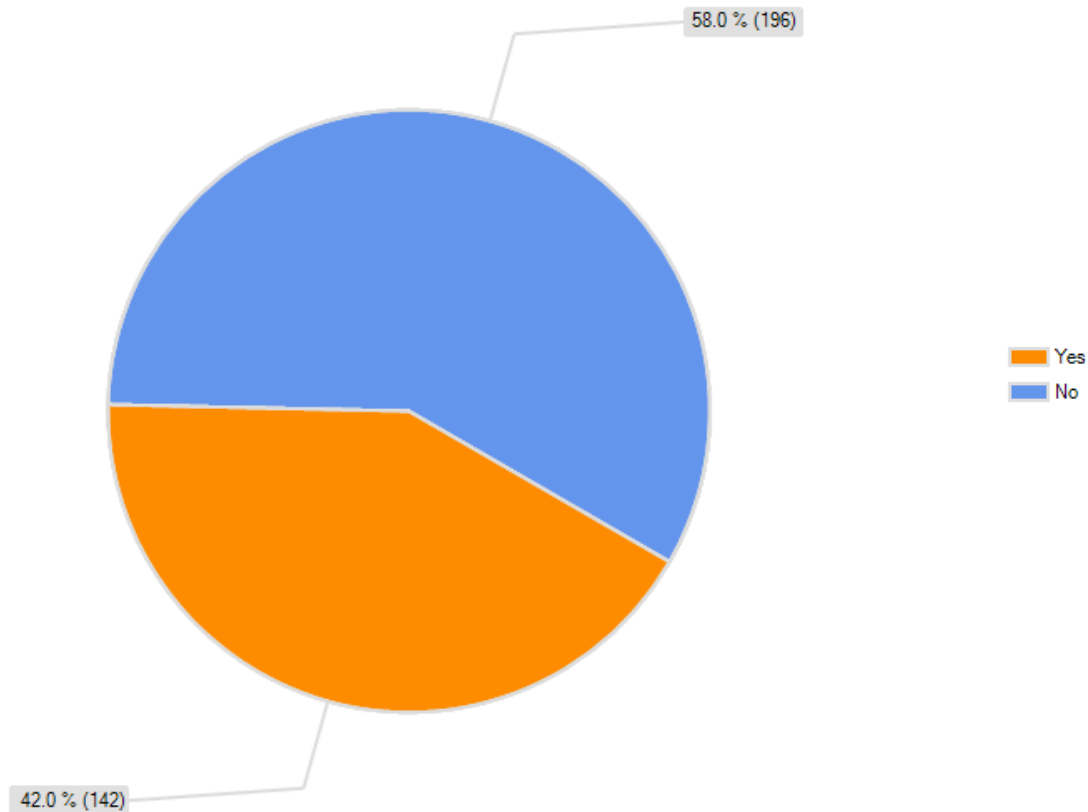
Q4: Majority Believe Policies Are Adequate

Do you have adequate personnel pay, sick leave, and flex-time policies to cover employee absences due to H1N1?



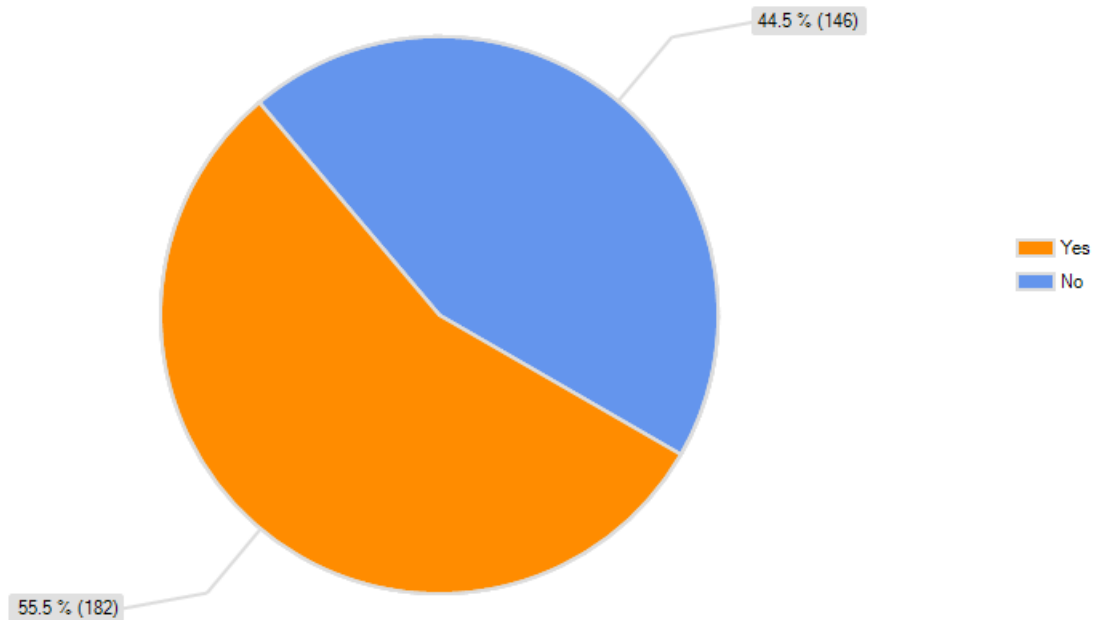
Q5: Majority Say They Do NOT Have Backup Suppliers Ready to Assist

Do you have backup suppliers ready to assist?

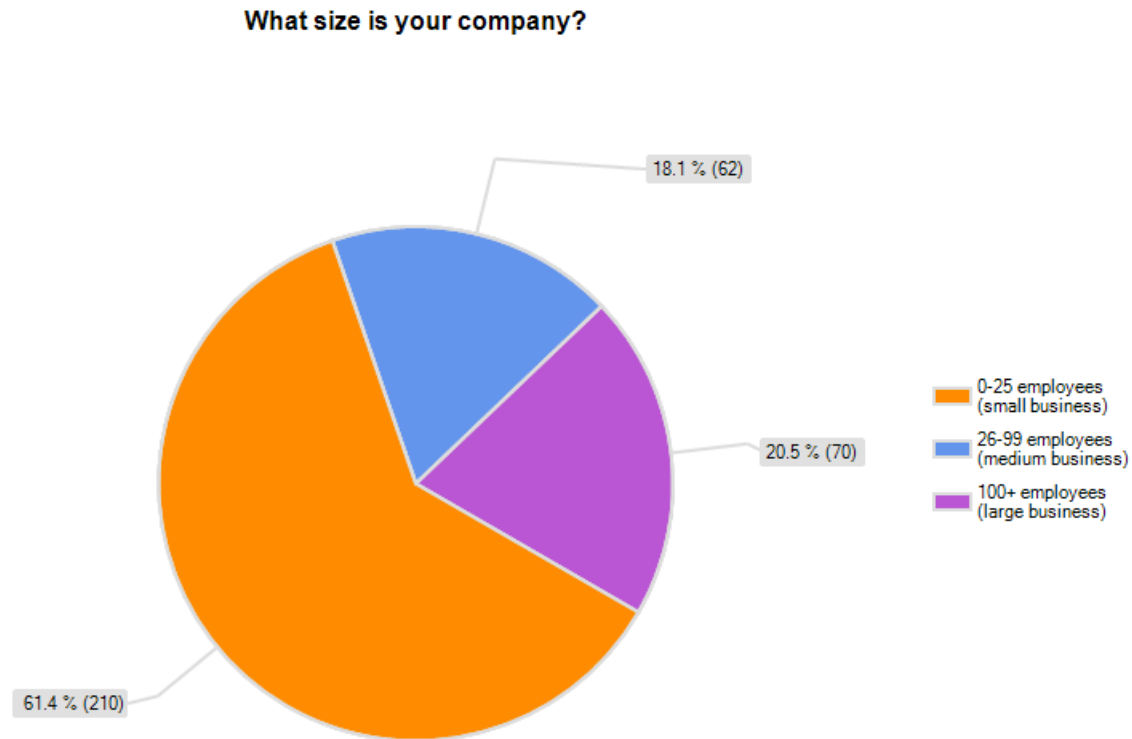


Q6: What If Schools Are Closed?

Do your employees have a plan to take care of their children if schools are closed?



Company Size



Sample Comments From Survey

- What can we do?
- I think this is just a scare tactic from the government
- How about mandatory masks and hand sanitizers for all if an outbreak should occur
- Swine flu is a created threat, used to instill fear into the population. It should be recognized as that.
- I don't think vaccinations should be required. It's a personal preference.

Sample Comments From Survey

- Not worth losing sleep over, at this point
- Need as much information as possible
- WE WILL SURVIVE OR DIE TRYING
- I have spoken to my doctor and he doesn't seem too concerned about getting the vaccines. Should I have my staff get the vaccine? Is there going to be enough vaccine for everyone?
- If we all stay home and don't go out in public, it will be a devastating financial blow to business

Sample Comments From Survey

- I pulled the CDC recommendations and put that into our per site location crisis management plan. We think we are covered.
- We're currently working on a business continuity plan in the case of a flu outbreak. We expect to be more prepared in the next few weeks.
- Our company has taken the time to put together a contingency plan for all employees. Employees who have limited sick leave will be advanced up to 40 hours, due to influenza (all strains) sickness.

AWB Suggestions

- Communicate to public using one information aggregator website -- (e.g. www.flu.gov)
- Determine one set of critical metrics that will trigger action by government, education and health-visible to public
- Continue focus on suggestions for personal hygiene and family preparation
- Initiate an “Ask Mary” section on website—FAQ’s, rumor response—(like www.snopes.com)
- Contact your local chambers of commerce to assist

AWB Next Steps

- Identify businesses that responded positively and indicated they have a crisis plan in place
- Leverage comments by those with plans in place into testimonials for use in communication with businesses
- Continue to provide timely, accurate and sourced information to the business community on this subject
- Special materials to members outlining proper health techniques (hand washing, covering sneezes/coughs)
- Expand AWB's role as conduit of information to business

Thank You

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Association
of Washington
Business

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